

EchoEs *from the Valley*

January 01, 2008

Volume 35, No. 01

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Mike Roper

Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant

Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



January 2008

A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church

1198 N. Valley Brook Road • Decatur, Georgia 30033 • Voice: 404-292-0212 • Fax: 404-292-8459

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The Hearts Of The People And The Doors Of This Church Are Open To Everyone



With the arrival of another New Year most of us find ourselves in various stages of reflection, recalling and remembering. It is good to take a look back, remembering where we've been, yet more importantly, it is vital that we look forward to where we are going.

I am looking forward to the New Year and my hope is that you are as well. Why am I looking forward to 2008? Because it presents an opportunity for us as a church to build on the past year, to move ahead, to realize some of our goals, to experience spiritual growth while bringing honor to God. We have the opportunity to accomplish some of the things that managed to get by us last year. We have new opportunities unfolding before us. Somehow the words, "New Year," have a fresh ring to them. Let's allow that freshness to influence our thinking continually; realizing that each day is a *new* day with *new* opportunities for involvement, service and ministry.

How did we do as a church last year? We grew together experiencing a strengthened sense of unity and purpose. Five people proclaimed faith in Christ as Savior and were baptized becoming a part of the family of God. Twenty- seven folks became members of the fellowship at Valley Brook. A new Sunday morning Bible study class was formed for young adults. "Valley Forge" continued to produce results as we "*Move forward gradually but steadily in a process of transformation; impacting our community, our church and Christ's Kingdom.*"

Our "Prayer Warriors" faithfully interceded on behalf of many people all across the world. The Fiftieth Anniversary Homecoming was a joyful time of worship and celebration.

These accomplishments are wonderful but our best days are ahead. Let's eagerly move forward together. I am excited to see what God has planned for us to accomplish. We have some wonderful people in our fellowship. Each one of you is gifted in a unique way to help this church grow spiritually and numerically. This church is a winner!

"But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 3:13b-14)

Pastor Mike

The Lord longs to be gracious to you.

Isaiah 30:18

The desire of God's heart is that you walk in His grace and favor every day of this year.

Our Echoes go out in the mail on the first and fifteenth of every month. If you have an article to be published, please turn in a week before mail outs. Thank you.

The Editor

echoes@vbbchurch.com



Janet and I were “knocked off our feet” on December 1st when the Valley Brook Church presented us with an unimaginable gift . . . A trip to Israel! This is a dream of many, especially those in ministry; however we had no idea that such an excursion would become a reality for us. As they say, “it wasn’t even on the radar.” Now, however, you have made this trip of a lifetime possible and we are so thankful. How exciting it is to be planning such an adventure. Although you’ve simplified the process by covering so many of the trip details, we are busy with other particulars and enjoying the task of planning. Applications are in; passports have been applied for; we have Jerusalem weather info on our Homepage; Janet is becoming more familiar with the use of her digital camera and I’m making a list of what NOT to take along. We are going to be moving around quite a bit and my goal is to travel extremely light. Please help to convince my much loved traveling companion to take seriously the “extremely light” part. It usually takes us two trips from car to house on Sunday nights to unload after only ONE day at Valley Brook.

We thank you. We love you, and I love being your pastor.

Pastor Mike and Janet



2007

Charles Harkleroad	01/21/07
Shelia Harkleroad	01/21/07
Brenda Bilbrey	01/28/07
Jayme Morgan	02/04/07
Mike Hay	03/25/07
R. J. (Bob) Whaley	06/10/07
Millie Whaley	06/10/07
Kate Broyles	06/10/07
David Paul Bagwell	06/17/07
Jeremy Arthur	07/01/07
James Michael Phillips, III	07/15/07
Scott Morris	07/15/07
Annette Goss	07/22/07
Racheal Northcutt	07/29/07
Dan Warnock (Re-affirmation)	08/12/07
Nancy Warnock (Re-affirm.)	08/12/07
Deborah Jackson	08/12/07
Gene Harlan	09/09/07
Wanda Harlan	09/09/07
Valera Windsor	09/09/07
Mark Windsor	09/16/07
Stacey Cotten	09/16/07
Lucretia Roberson	09/16/07
Melinda (Linda) Godard	10/07/07
Carl Jenkins	11/04/07
Cathy Jenkins	11/04/07
Luann Worrell	11/18/07

DEPARTED MEMBERS—2007

Glenn Jackson	02/15/07
Martha Tritt	04/24/07
Betty Ginn	05/03/07

“FIRST PLACE” Orientation

January 16—6:45 p.m.

“First Place” is a Christ-centered weight control program including Bible study, small-group support, accountability, a proven commonsense nutrition plan and exercise. This nationally recognized health program is geared toward all areas of a person’s life: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Questions? See Janet

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VALLEY BROOK

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

Sunday School

Here the Bible is taught and discussed in a small group. You will benefit through your participation.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Come for a time of intercessory prayer and in-depth Bible study.

WMU

A Women's Organization to teach missions and to support missions around the world.

Brotherhood

This one's for the guys. An organization to encourage the involvement of men in the work of the church and support mission activities.

Prayer Warriors

Meets weekly for a time of intensive intercessory prayer. If you are available at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, join this group. You will be blessed and will be a blessing to others.

Keenagers

Mostly, not exclusively, a seniors' group. Meets mostly for fun.

Over the Hill Gang

Warning! For the thick-skinned only. Seriously, men meet at the church at 7:55 in the morning to depart to a local eatery and enjoy breakfast together.

Valley Forge

Meet at the church each Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Valley Forge is a program designed to reach people and touch lives as we *"move forward gradually but steadily in a process of transformation, impacting our community, our church and Christ's kingdom.*